United Nations A/71/995

General Assembly

Distr.: General
26 July 2017

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 68
Promotion and protection of human rights

Letter dated 26 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to convey to you information on the role of a unique civil society institution in Uzbekistan, *mahalla*, in the promotion and protection of human rights in our country (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 68.

(*Signed*) Bakhtiyor **Ibragimov**

17-12806 (E) 020817 030817

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 26 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Uzbekistan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

The *mahalla* — a unique civil society institution in Uzbekistan

In Uzbekistan, the *mahalla* dates back to ancient times as a powerful seat of culture, an effective citizens' self-governing body, the entity closest to the people and a unique civil society institution. The role and significance of *mahallas* has always been invaluable in carefully preserving the multi-ethnic Uzbek people's national and universal human values, culture, way of life, thoughts and spirituality that have been passed down for generations.

It was during the years of independence that, for the first time in the history of the nation State, citizens' assemblies were enshrined in article 105 of the Constitution of the Republic of Uzbekistan as territorial self-government units. The participation of self-governing bodies in specific areas of public life has been regulated in over 100 laws and regulations, as part of implementing the concept "from a strong State to a strong civil society".

Over the past five years alone, laws of the Republic of Uzbekistan have been adopted and implemented on citizens' self-governing bodies and on elections of the chairman (*aqsaqal*) of a citizens' assembly and his advisers, as well as some 20 provisions relating to the work of *mahallas* and their public bodies. Skills development training courses have been held for workers in this sector. A popular educational television channel called *Mahalla* has been produced and a popular mass-circulated newspaper *Mahalla* has also been published.

In order to establish the organizational and legal framework for *mahallas* and to enhance the legal culture and skills of employees within citizens' self-governing bodies, the *Mahalla* public charity foundation was established in 1992. It has an extensive network of subdivisions operating in each district and town of Uzbekistan. Over the past 25 years, the foundation has been performing a range of tasks aimed at integrating *mahallas* into modern democratic society, specifically helping to improve the organizational framework of *mahallas*, expanding their functions and ensuring their close cooperation with the public and administrative authorities.

Today, some 10 thousand citizens' assemblies operating in our country are successfully performing over 30 socially and economically significant tasks that had previously been carried out by the local government authorities.

As noted by the President of Uzbekistan, Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, the State attaches particular importance to effectively harnessing the opportunities provided by *mahallas*, enhancing the legal culture in society and strengthening respect for the law among citizens. The *mahalla* is set to become an even more efficient body offering real assistance to the people, a "window of justice" and a place where people can express their views and outline their proposals and problems, which undoubtedly will further strengthen the people's trust in the State.

The decree of the President of Uzbekistan on measures for the further improvement of the *mahalla* institution, dated 3 February 2017, marked the beginning of a new phase in the development of this system. The *mahalla* institution is being successfully improved to meet modern needs.

In accordance with this decree, the following five priority areas have been identified to further improve the *mahalla* institution:

Strengthening the place and role of citizens' self-governing bodies in society and transforming them into local entities that provide real assistance to people;

Further improving the relevance and authority of *mahallas* in creating an atmosphere of mutual respect, kindness and charity, fostering social cohesion and preserving and developing national and universal human values;

Bolstering cooperation between citizens' self-governing bodies and governmental and non-governmental organizations in raising young people who are physically and mentally healthy;

Expanding the direct involvement of *mahallas* in ensuring public order and safety, the early reporting of offences and increased respect for the law among citizens;

Introducing effective mechanisms in order to protect rights and legitimate interests, coordinate the work of citizens' self-governing bodies and ensure common law enforcement practice within the *mahalla* system.

In accordance with the above decree, the national coordination council of citizens' self-governing bodies has been granted legal personality. Its subdivisions are formed by councils in the Republic of Karakalpakstan and in the city of Tashkent, as well as provincial, district and municipal councils.

In order to implement the main tasks and new norms approved by the decree, a programme of comprehensive measures is being implemented that includes specific activities to further improve the work of the councils and provide support for citizens' self-governing bodies.

In order to upgrade the facilities of citizens' self-governing bodies, children's playgrounds have been built and lifestyle amenities developed for *mahallas* under territorial programmes for the period 2017-2021. By 1 December 2018, measures will be taken to build "*mahalla* centre" model projects in districts and towns.

A modern "*mahalla* centre" complex has separate rooms with furniture, computers and relevant reading materials for the *mahalla* chairman, secretary, consultants, advisers and crime prevention officer. "*Mahalla* centre" projects also include facilities that shape the lives of modern citizens such as tea rooms, bakeries, beauty salons, shops, sports grounds and children's playgrounds.

Today the *kengash* [committee] of citizens' assemblies is a fine-tuned mechanism that includes the chairman, advisers to the chairman on elderly, veteran and youth affairs, consultants, the executive secretary, the adviser to the citizens' assembly on questions of religious education and spiritual and moral upbringing, the head of the "*Mahalla* posobni" public organization, the local crime prevention inspectors, and also the heads of educational institutions and rural health centres (family clinics) located in the territories of citizens' assemblies.

Citizens' self-governing bodies have commissions that successfully cover the following main areas of work of the citizens' assemblies: reconciliation; education and spirituality; social support; work with women; children, youth and sports; the development of entrepreneurship and family businesses; the environment, nature conservation, landscaping and greening; and public oversight and consumer protection. Depending on the urgency of the issues in the territory concerned, a citizens' assembly may also set up other commissions pertaining to its main areas of activity.

In the context of the "Year of Dialogue with the People and Human Interests" initiated by the President of Uzbekistan, Mr. Shavkat Mirziyoyev, *mahalla* leaders and activists are engaged in law making and in work related to preventing offences,

enhancing legal awareness among the public, especially youth and women, assisting socially vulnerable segments of the population, promoting physical culture, sport and healthy living, organizing recreation for boys and girls and protecting the environment. The teaching of entrepreneurship skills and the use of e-Government services are particular areas of focus.

Public oversight by citizens' self-governing bodies, concerning enforcement and effective implementation by government authorities of their duties to resolve urgent public issues, plays an important role in providing meaningful feedback between society and the State and in further improving the social and spiritual atmosphere in families and *mahallas*.

In all of this work, citizens' self-governing bodies and the *Mahalla* public charity foundation cooperate actively with Youth Union of Uzbekistan, the Women's Committee, the Nuronii Foundation for the public support of veterans and other civic organizations.

Uzbekistan has put into practice the principle that the entire *mahalla* is responsible for each child. All the strengths and capabilities of the State and society are mobilized to educate young people in a spirit of national and universal values. In this task, government bodies rely on *mahallas*, whose assets include veterans and mothers with tremendous life experience, knowledge and spiritual capacity. The numerous sporting events organized by *mahallas* help boys and girls to grow physically strong and healthy.

The *mahalla iftihori* badge was established in July 2017 and will be awarded to proactive citizens and representatives of civic institutions that have made a worthy contribution to implementing the tasks entrusted to the citizens' self-governing bodies.

Today the Uzbek *mahalla* is a seat of learning. Libraries are gradually being organized in buildings of citizens' assemblies, for example, with *mahalla* bibliophile weeks held on site. *Mahalla* centres have libraries that are well stocked with books, including e-books, as well as computers with Internet access. This is important in organizing substantive leisure activities for people and enhancing a culture of reading among young people.

Community councils dealing with relations between families, *mahallas* and schools and "parents' universities", whereby parents assume their responsibility for protecting their child, help teachers in the education of children, increase the role of parents in the child development process, and bring together schools and families in preventing pupils from developing harmful habits. Parents, health-care professionals and educators systematically discuss and develop collective solutions to problems of concern to young people and young families.

The modern Uzbek *mahalla* functions like a genuine school of democracy and lives as one family. *Mahalla* leaders and activists are informed about the status, successes and challenges of each family. They spread the message of cohesion and harmony. That is why people join citizens' assemblies, share their views and proposals, and discuss and find solutions to their concerns.

Ancient and forever young, the Uzbek *mahalla* is the common home of ethnically diverse representatives. Inter-ethnic harmony within citizens' assemblies and the further strengthening of friendship, cohesion and mutual respect are important for enhancing the independence and development of the nation and the well-being of its people.

The 2017-2021 strategy of action on five priority areas for the development of the Republic of Uzbekistan, adopted in February 2017, seeks to strengthen the role

of non-governmental, community-based organizations and local self-governing bodies, including the relevance and effectiveness of the *mahalla* institution in public administration. That task has been carried out successfully.

The current experience of Uzbekistan reaffirms the validity of this unique institution for independent action whereby citizens address issues of local significance based on their interests, historical development characteristics, national and spiritual values, and local customs and traditions. *Mahallas* are successfully engaged in democratic transformations based on the following principles: the rule of law; the precedence of the rights, freedoms and legitimate interests of individuals; democracy; openness; social justice; autonomy in local decision-making; public recourse; social partnership; and respect for local customs and traditions.

Thanks to the *mahalla* Uzbekistan has, for centuries, developed and maintained specific principles for the population governing their social and economic behaviour, respect for community values and ethical relationships, which guarantees that they unconditionally fulfil their commitments and responsibilities to society. All of this, alongside high levels of trust between citizens in *mahallas*, is a prerequisite for the formation of civil society.

Today the experience of the *mahalla*, as a unique institution for building a democratic State and forming a strong civil society, can be used effectively in other countries that are moving towards democracy.

United Nations A/71/996–S/2017/388

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
28 July 2017

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda items 34, 35 and 68

The situation in the Middle East

Question of Palestine

Promotion and protection of human rights

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Identical letters dated 2 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

In my capacity as Chair of the Arab Group for the month of May 2017, I have the honour to transmit herewith the letter addressed by the Secretary-General of the League of Arab States, Ahmed Aboul Gheit, dated 24 April 2017, regarding the humanitarian situation of the hundreds of Palestinian prisoners who have gone on hunger strikes in Israel's prisons (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 34, 35 and 68, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Alya Ahmed Saif **Al-Thani**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-13032 (E) 040817

Please recycle

Annex to the identical letters dated 2 May 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Qatar to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General, the President of the General Assembly and the President of the Security Council

I am writing to you to express my most profound concern about the severe humanitarian situation of the hundreds of Palestinian prisoners who have gone on hunger strike, which is now entering its seventh day, to expose the inhumane conditions of their incarceration and illegal detention by the Israeli Occupying Power.

As you are aware, these Palestinian prisoners have already been subjected to the most brutal, degrading and humiliating of practices while languishing in Israel's prison system, and the Israeli government has only responded to their hunger strike — which is the most peaceful form of resistance available to them — by threatening to inflict even more suffering and to further punish not only those who have gone on hunger strike, but the entire Palestinian prisoner population being incarcerated on so-called security-related grounds in Israeli prisons.

The international community has the responsibility not only to condemn these brutal and blatant violations of international law but to also demand, and ensure, that Israel, the Occupying Power, fully respect its obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention. These ruthless practices must no longer be tolerated by the community of civilized nations. I am confident that you will continue to exercise your good offices and urgently intervene to ensure that Israel immediately ceases these indiscriminate and inhumane policies, and that the international community continues to hold the Israeli government accountable, both legally and criminally, for its systematic violation of the human rights of the Palestinian prisoners.

(*Signed*) Ahmed **Aboul Gheit**

United Nations A/71/997–S/2017/652

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
31 July 2017

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 31
Prevention of armed conflict

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 26 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

In accordance with instructions received from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the declaration of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on the withdrawal of Russian military forces from the territory of the country, dated 21 July 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Victor **Moraru**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-13105 (E) 030817

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 26 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: English and Russian]

21 July 2017

DECLARATION

of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova

on the withdrawal of Russian military forces from the territory of the country

In view of the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of Moldova, according to which the Republic of Moldova is a sovereign, independent, unitary and indivisible state with inalienable territory,

Emphasising the constitutional provisions on the permanent neutrality and non-admission of the stationing of other states' military troops on its territory,

Conscious of the fact that defending the territorial integrity and the security of the state is a priority for the foreign and internal policy of the Republic of Moldova,

Underlining the need to consolidate national security as an indispensable element of regional security,

Reconfirming the Declaration of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova on the inviolability of the sovereignty, independence and permanent neutrality of the Republic of Moldova, adopted on 31 March 2016,

Noting with regret, today, on the 25th anniversary of the ceasing of the hostilities on the river Nistru, the failure to respect stringently the provisions of the Agreement on the principles regarding the peaceful settlement of the armed conflict in the Transnistrian region of the Republic of Moldova signed on 21 July 1992, especially with respect to the withdrawal of the Russian army from the territory of the country,

THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

DECLARES that the continuous stationing of the troops of the Russian Federation and the strengthening of their military presence in the eastern part of the Republic of Moldova are violations of the constitutional provisions, especially with respect to the independence, sovereignty, territorial integrity and permanent neutrality of the Republic of Moldova, as well as of the international law;

CONSIDERS that the maintaining on the territory of the Republic of Moldova of a considerable amount of ammunition, arms and military equipment is a constant threat to regional and European security and stability, in general;

INVITES the mediators and observers in the process of settlement of the Transnistrian conflict to initiate political discussions regarding the transformation of the current peacekeeping mechanism in a civil mission with international mandate;

APPEALS to the Russian Federation to resume and finalise the process of withdrawal of its troops and also withdraw its ammunition, arms and military equipment from the territory of the Republic of Moldova, in accordance with the relevant principles of the international law and its international commitments;

ADDRESSES all international organisms and states of the world the appeal to support its initiative on preserving the sovereignty, independence, territorial integrity and neutrality of the Republic of Moldova, as well as to contribute, to the same extent, to the consolidation of its efforts directed towards safeguarding the security of the state;

UNDERLINES, in its capacity as supreme representative body of the people and single legislative power, that it will continue to expend every effort for the maintenance of the statehood of the Republic of Moldova, for the social and economical development of the country, for the enhancement of the well-being of the people and in order to ensure the security of the citizens;

DEMANDS the Government and the President of the Republic of Moldova to promote, through all the means they hold, the adoption of a Resolution by the General Assembly of the United Nations regarding the withdrawal of Russian military troops illegally stationing on the territory of our country;

URGES all the parties involved to treat this declaration as a manifestation of the peaceful and friendly character of the existence and development of our state and as a guarantee of the maintenance of peace and stability both on the territory of the Republic of Moldova and in the region.

United Nations A/71/998

General Assembly

Distr.: General
1 August 2017

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 106
Crime prevention and criminal justice

Letter dated 28 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Writing on behalf of the 23 members of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, comprising the Kingdom of Bahrain, the People's Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Belarus, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Ecuador, Eritrea, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nicaragua, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Singapore, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Uzbekistan and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, I have the honour to transmit the statement of the members of the Group of Friends on the occasion of World Day against Trafficking in Persons, commemorated on 30 July (see annex).

I would appreciate it if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 106.

(*Signed*) Andrei **Dapkiunas**

17-13167 (E) 020817

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 28 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking on the World Day against Trafficking in Persons

New York, 30 July 2017

On the World Day against Trafficking in Persons, we, the Members of the Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking, comprising the Kingdom of Bahrain, the Peoples' Republic of Bangladesh, the Republic of Belarus, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, the Republic of Ecuador, Eritrea, the Arab Republic of Egypt, the Republic of India, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Nicaragua, the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the Republic of the Philippines, the State of Qatar, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Singapore, the Republic of Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, the United Arab Emirates, the Republic of Uzbekistan, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela,

Recognise that trafficking in persons is a heinous crime and remains one of the greatest challenges to the international development and human dignity that needs collective concerted and comprehensive international response to effectively combat it;

Reaffirm our commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, mindful of its integrated and indivisible nature and acknowledging that the 2030 Agenda includes commitments that relate to fighting all forms of trafficking in persons;

Stress the importance of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, adopted on July 30, 2010, by the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly, as a comprehensive document aimed at promoting better coordination of anti-trafficking efforts, where countries of origin, demand and transit, along with international organisations, private sector and civil society, find a practical way of working together as one;

Recall that the United Nations proclaimed July 30, the day of the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, as the World Day against Trafficking in Persons and invite all Member States, relevant United Nations agencies, as well as civil society, to observe the World Day;

Underline the importance of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons (September 27-28, 2017, New York) and invite all partners to contribute to its success;

Stress the crucial role of honest and sincere partnership among all stakeholders in fighting human trafficking and reiterate our readiness to work closely together to pursue all anti-trafficking initiatives on a more coordinated and engaging basis.

United Nations A/71/999

General Assembly

Distr.: General
9 August 2017

Original: English

Seventy-first session
Agenda item 19
Sustainable development

Letter dated 28 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instruction from my Government, I have the honour to transmit herewith the outcome documents of the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms, held in Tehran from 3 to 5 July 2017:

(a) Report of the Conference (see annex I);

(b) Technical recommendations (see annex II);

(c) Tehran Ministerial Declaration (see annex III).

The Conference was held in implementation of General Assembly resolution 71/219, entitled "Combating sand and dust storms", adopted on 21 December 2016 under agenda item 19, "Sustainable development".

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annexes circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 19.

(*Signed*) Eshagh **Al Habib**
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

17-13677 (E) 160817

Please recycle

Annex I to the letter dated 28 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Report of the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms

Tehran, 3-5 July 2017

Introduction

In 2016, the General Assembly acknowledged, in its resolution 71/219, "the intention of the Islamic Republic of Iran to host an international event on combating sand and dust storms". In line with that resolution, the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms: Challenges and Practical Solutions was held in Tehran from 3 to 5 July 2017.

The International Conference was hosted by the Department of Environment and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, with the cooperation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Development Programme and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the Secretariat, as well as other relevant United Nations entities.

A total of 90 international participants from 36 countries attended the event. Four countries were represented at the ministerial level and five countries were represented at the deputy minister level. Also contributing to the conference were 16 international experts and resource persons.

Opening ceremony

The opening ceremony included statements from the President of Iran, Hassan Rouhani, the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, Haoliang Xu, the Vice-President and Head of the Department of Environment of Iran, Masoumeh Ebtekar, and the Executive Secretary of the Regional Organization for the Protection of Marine Environment, Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi. The distinguished speakers highlighted the importance of collaboration among countries, relevant United Nations agencies and other organizations in combating sand and dust storms. They emphasized the urgency of international, regional and national awareness and cooperation on the global problem of sand and dust storms and the need for regional solutions to be identified and then implemented.

Sessions 1 and 2. Ministerial dialogue

Session 1 was opened by the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations, who invited the Vice-President and Head of the Department of Environment of Iran, Ms. Ebtekar, to chair the ministerial segment. The proposal was agreed by acclamation. Once the agenda had been adopted, chairs were elected for the technical sessions. Introductory remarks were presented by the United Nations Resident Coordinator in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Gary Lewis, and an overview presentation was given by the Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs at the New York Office of UNEP, Jamil Ahmad.

Session 2 was opened by the Head of UNEP, Erik Solheim, who also represented the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

During the ministerial dialogue, statements were made by the distinguished representatives from Afghanistan, Chad, China, Ecuador, India, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea, the Syrian Arab

Republic, and Turkey. Representatives from organizations including the Regional Organization for the Protection of Marine Environment and the Iranian Forests, Rangelands and Watershed Organization also presented statements.

Country representatives shared with the distinguished representatives their experiences of how sand and dust storms had affected their countries and what existing and planned policies and measures they had in place for addressing that issue. Countries emphasized the essentiality of bilateral, regional and international cooperation, including the need for participatory approaches.

Countries highlighted environmental concerns that are made significantly more challenging by terrorist entities, such as ISIS, in the region. They also emphasized the challenges brought about by sand and dust storms to their sustainable development and the impact thereof on the ability of those countries to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. There was a reference to the need for joint solutions to "make the planet great" again.

Session 3. Social, economic and environmental impact and costs

Session Chair: Minister of Environment of Ecuador, Tarsicio Granzio

Moderator: Representative of the Regional Centre for Environmental Health Action, World Health Organization, Amman, Mazen Malkawi.

Cross-sectoral cooperation speaker: Charles Kelly

Summary of discussions

While the frequency, duration and intensity of sand and dust storms has increased in many affected regions, the increase in economic growth and the population in affected areas has also intensified exposure to sand and dust storms. The extent to which a country is affected by sand and dust storms is largely dependent on its resilience and ability to access the appropriate tools, mechanisms and resources in responding to them. The more resilient a country is, the greater the number of options available to tackle sand and dust storms, thereby reducing vulnerability.

In addition to their immediate and long-term, wide-ranging economic and environmental impact, sand and dust storms are a public health issue. In all countries that suffer from sand and dust storms, there is evidence of their impact, particularly the serious implications for cardiovascular and respiratory systems. There are, however, some positive side effects of sand and dust storms. One such example is the dust from the Sahara, carried across the Atlantic by the trade winds, which eventually settle on and fertilize the Amazon soils in South America.

Cohort studies are necessary to make the studies on sand and dust storms more relevant to the particular contexts and environmental realities and requirements of different regions. There is a need for greater research and studies in which guidelines are developed for regions where sand and dust storms and their resulting effects take place.

While the occurrence of sand and dust storms can be scientifically determined, quantifying their impact on society, the economy and the environment is more difficult to conduct, owing to the lack of relevant data. There is a clear need to generate high-quality relational data sets. Suggested methods of doing so included utilizing livelihood analysis to determine the socioeconomic costs of sand and dust storms. Risk assessments should be conducted in a way that is appropriate for all, and there is a need to develop the right mechanisms and tools to do so.

Technical recommendations from the session

(a) Promote the sustainable management of land and water use, including in arid and semi-arid areas to mitigate the drivers of sand and dust storms;

(b) Identify a new set of standards to prevent and reduce the impact of sand and dust storms on human health in the affected areas;

(c) Establish a dust-health early warning system, which would protect human health and save lives;

(d) Develop standard methods and models for the quantification of the socioeconomic and environmental impact and risk assessments;

(e) Improve research to fill the gaps between scientific findings and operational works.

Session 4. Source recognition, monitoring, observation, forecasting and early warning systems

Session Chair: Director General, National Environment Protection Agency, Mostapha Zaher

Moderator: Director, Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific, World Meteorological Organization (WMO), C. K. Park

Speaker 1: Representative of the National Centre for Combating Dust Storms, Tehran, Zieaoddin Shoaei

Speaker 2: Expert, University of Belgrade, Ana Vukovic

Speaker 3: Director of the Research Department at the Turkish State Meteorological Service, Mustafa Coşkun

Speaker 4: Presentation of the State Meteorological Agency of Spain by Ms. Vukovic

Summary of discussions

Early warning systems need to build on capacities on risk knowledge, monitoring and warning services, as well as dissemination and communication response capabilities. Scientific research and observations are critical in addressing sand and dust storms. In the light of the variations in the impact and experiences of countries and regions, subregional mechanisms were suggested as a useful platform for exchanging data and knowledge. There are tools, such as the European Organization for the Exploitation of Meteorological Satellites, that can act as a good source for monitoring dust. However, such tools come with certain limitations. Potential dust sources maps and atmospheric dust numerical models are a priority for forecasting local dust storm events in the early warning system. In order to improve the quality of early warning and forecasting systems, integrating meteorological and land surface observations, air dust concentration and source monitoring in near-real time is required. Harmonized methods should be used for data collection to ensure consistency.

Technical recommendations from the session

(a) Strengthen the national, subregional and regional capacities of weather monitoring, climate and forecasting models of sand and dust storms in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, including WMO, through technology transfer and the allocation of technical and financial assistance;

(b) Harmonize the collection, quality assurance and control, analysis, processing, reporting and communication of the required data and information to improve the quality of early warning and forecasting systems;

(c) Integrate the sand and dust storm warning system with warning systems of other sectors into national, regional and global plans and strategies, as appropriate;

(d) Identify and map the sand and dust storm hotspots and their impact at the local, national, regional and global levels;

(e) Establish a dust-health early warning system, which would protect human health and save lives.

Session 5. Policy options, technology innovation and resource mobilization, considering cross-sector integrated approaches

Session Chair: Minister of State for Environment of Nigeria, Ibrahim Usman Jibril

Moderator: Mariam Akhtar-Schuster

Speaker 1: Land degradation specialist at the Arab Centre for the Study of Arid Zones and Dry Lands, Bassem Katlan

Speaker 2: Chair of the Elion Foundation, Inner Mongolia, China, Wang Wenbiao

Speaker 3: Jacqueline McGlade

Speaker 4: Representative of the secretariat of the Kuwait Regional Convention for Cooperation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution, Hassan Mohammadi

Summary of discussions

In order to effectively address sand and dust storms, sound knowledge, good statistics and indicators, effective governance and smart ways of approaching issues are needed. This is particularly key given the geopolitics within the region. Soil pollution and the displacement of topsoil is exacerbated by the various conflicts occurring within the region. Investing in capacity development mechanisms is important to build resilience. The Kubuqi model in Mongolia is an excellent example of successful steps taken to combat sand storms and desertification in Mongolia.

In the short to medium term, there is a need to reinforce protective strategies to reduce the negative impact of sand and dust storms. In the longer term, the emphasis should be on integrated strategies that promote sustainable land and water management.

Remote sensing techniques help in monitoring sand and dust storms and combating desertification. Tools exist for monitoring sand and dust storms, such as satellite imagery, air quality stations and meteorological reports. These need to be better harnessed. There is a need to invest in improving the quality of early warning systems. Scientific and research observations are critical in addressing sand and dust storms. They will facilitate forecasting, which is essential for early warning. Investment is essential in mitigation efforts. Clear quantitative evidence is required in making a case for such efforts to be funded by Governments and ministries, which have many competing needs and sectors that they should satisfy. Good studies will provide countries with the sound evidence needed and a powerful case for funding.

Technical recommendations from the session

(a) Promote the use and protection of endemic and appropriate plant species that are able to withstand extreme weather and soil conditions, such as drought and salinity, to reduce the negative impact of sand and dust storms;

(b) Undertake research and evidence-based studies at the national and regional levels on the factors that cause and accelerate the negative impact of sand and dust storms, such as loss of land cover, overgrazing and soil cultivation methods, and take appropriate preventive measures;

(c) Raise public awareness within local communities and encourage their participation in mitigating the negative impact of sand and dust storms;

(d) Provide the socioeconomic incentives needed to encourage local people to implement the necessary measures on their land;

(e) Ensure that actions to tackle the drivers of sand and dust storms are consistent with the actions recommended under the three Rio Conventions (the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity);

(f) Consider existing initiatives under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa regional action plan to establish a "green wall" on desert margins and other initiatives, such as regional air pollution agreements and policies that have the potential to address sand and dust storms;

(g) Encourage the developing countries affected to create their own action plans on sand and dust storms at the national and regional levels and seek support from the United Nations and other regional and international organizations for that purpose;

(h) Develop integrated strategies to promote the sustainable use of natural resources;

(i) Enhance the access of States, in particular developing countries, to finance, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, science and inclusive innovation and knowledge-sharing, especially through bilateral and multilateral collaborative arrangements.

Session 6. Global, regional and cross-sectoral cooperation and responses

Session Chair: Ambassador of the Netherlands representing the European Union, Susanna Terstal

Moderator: Director, Regional Office for Asia and the South-West Pacific, WMO, C. K. Park

Speaker 1: Representative of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, Bangkok, Tiziana Bonapace

Speaker 2: Deputy Minister for International Affairs, Ministry of Energy, Islamic Republic of Iran, Regional cooperation on sustainable dust disaster management, Alireza Daemi

Speaker 3: Representative of the Regional Centre for Environmental Health Action, World Health Organization, Amman, Mr. Malkawi

Speaker 4: Specialist in Iranian ecology, David Laylin

Summary of discussions

There are many synergies between the Sustainable Development Goals and multilateral environmental agreements. There is a need for a global dialogue on sand and dust storms. There are many existing mechanisms and institutions that aim to address sand and dust storms. What is necessary is that countries cooperate to utilize these existing mechanisms in a more effective and efficient way.

Gaps in effectively combating sand and dust storms include: (a) information (lack of relevant and scientific data and communication mechanisms); (b) cooperation (deeper cooperation and commitment required); and (c) capacity (need for training) and communication mechanisms.

The need for both international collaboration and provincial and cross-border cooperation was discussed. The Hamouns in Iran and Afghanistan were used as an example of an area particularly affected by land degradation and desertification and the necessity for comprehensive cross-border cooperation to address that problem and to protect and restore the region. During the conference, sincere willingness to achieve such cooperation was expressed.

Technical recommendations from the session

(a) Take appropriate action to address the main factors at all levels causing sand and dust storms in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, also taking into consideration the synergies among the three Rio Conventions;

(b) Invite the relevant United Nations agencies to consider initiating an inter-agency process on sand and dust storms globally;

(c) Stress the need for further cooperation and capacity-building through knowledge-sharing, technical expertise, the boosting of technical cooperation, best practices and lessons learned.

Field visits

Two field visits were organized by the Forests, Rangelands and Watershed Organization for the participants in the conference. Participants were able to choose between the Aran Bidgol region in Kashan in Esfahan Province and Ahvaz city in Khuzestan Province.

Kashan: The key principal who took part in the field visit to Kashan was the Assistant Secretary-General of the United Nations. Participants were introduced to successful examples of practical solutions to combat sand and dust storms and their effects on land rehabilitation and environmental improvement on more than 200,000 ha of desert lands.

Ahvaz: The key principals who took part in the field visit to Ahvaz included the Vice President and Head of the Department of the Environment of Iran, Ms. Ebtekar, and the Under-Secretary-General and Head of UNEP, Mr. Solheim. Participants visited dry lands that had recently generated sand and dust storms to the south-east of Ahvaz city. Participants were introduced to rehabilitation projects, including a visit to a successful project for restoring the 127,000 ha Hur-ul Azim wetlands, which are an active source of sand and dust storms along the Iran-Iraq border.

Technical recommendations

The technical recommendations were based on the topics of the four technical sessions and were adopted at the closing of the conference.

Ministerial Declaration

The Conference adopted the Tehran Ministerial Declaration. It was discussed during and following the first ministerial dialogue session, and relevant deliberations continued throughout the afternoon of the first day. The Declaration was eventually adopted by acclamation during the dinner hosted by the Foreign Minister of Iran, Javad Zarif.

The paramount relevance of the Declaration lies in its signifying a constructive spirit in the discussions and the commitment of all participating countries to securing benefits for all in the face of the challenges posed by sand and dust storms.

Through the process of preparing the Declaration, countries agreed to cooperate on combating sand and dust storms at the subregional, regional and international levels, including on sharing information, strengthening national legal and institutional frameworks to share early warning information, enhancing public awareness of the impact and cost of sand and dust storms and strengthening research activities for effective monitoring, forecasting and early warning mechanisms.

The Declaration requested that the Environment Management Group of the United Nations consider initiating an inter-agency process involving relevant United Nations agencies to prepare a global response to sand and dust storms, including a situation analysis, a strategy and an action plan.

Closing

The Chairs of the four technical sessions reported on the proceedings of the sessions. The Rapporteur, the Resident Coordinator in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Lewis, reported the key reflections. Concluding remarks were presented by the Deputy Director of Intergovernmental Affairs of UNEP, Mr. Ahmad, and a representative of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Reza Salamat. The Vice President and Head of the Department of the Environment of Iran, Ms. Ebtekar, presented her concluding remarks and closed the conference.

All participants were invited for a group photo. The International Conference was a useful platform for networking and exchanging knowledge, both in the form of interactions during the course of the conference and through the meetings that took place on its sidelines.

Annex II to the letter dated 28 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Technical recommendations

Introduction

Sand and dust storms have a wide geographical reach, as they occur in all world regions and are transboundary in nature. Their impact on achieving sustainable development is therefore significant at the local, regional and global levels. The main drivers for the increase of sand and dust storms, specifically in arid and semi-arid areas, are the drastic changes in annual rainfall, temperature and droughts as a result of climate change and unsustainable land management and water use.

The following technical recommendations are classified based on the topics of four technical sessions.

Social, economic and environmental impact and costs to:

(a) Promote the sustainable management of land and water use, including in arid and semi-arid areas, to mitigate the drivers of sand and dust storms;

(b) Identify a new set of standards to prevent and reduce the impact of sand and dust storms on human health in the areas affected;

(c) Establish a dust-health early warning system, which would protect human health and save lives;

(d) Develop standard methods and models for the quantification of the socioeconomic and environmental impact and risk assessments;

(e) Improve research to fill the gaps between scientific findings and operational work.

Source recognition, monitoring, observation, forecasting and early warning systems to:

(a) Strengthen the national, subregional and regional capacities of weather monitoring, climate and forecasting models of sand and dust storms in cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies and organizations, including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), through technology transfer and the allocation technical and financial assistance;

(b) Harmonize the collection, quality assurance and control, analysis, processing, reporting and communication of the required data and information to improve the quality of early warning and forecasting systems.

(c) Integrate the sand and dust storm warning system with warning systems of other sectors into national, regional and global plans and strategies, as appropriate.[1]

(d) Identify and map the sand and dust storm hotspots and their impact at the local, national, regional and global levels;

[1] Although the Turkish delegation was represented and participated in the discussions of the committee established to prepare these recommendations, in the end, it expressed reservations on the text, indicating that it was not in a position to accept it as negotiated.

(e) Establish a dust-health early warning system, which would protect human health and save lives.

Policy options, technology innovation and resource mobilization, considering cross-sector integrated approaches to:

(a) Promote the use and protection of endemic and appropriate plant species that are able to withstand extreme weather and soil conditions, such as drought and salinity, to reduce the negative impact of sand and dust storms.

(b) Undertake research and evidence-based studies at the national and regional levels on the factors that cause and accelerate the negative impact of sand and dust storms, such as loss of land cover, overgrazing and soil cultivation methods, and take appropriate preventive measures;

(c) Raise public awareness of the local communities and promote their participation in mitigating the negative impact of sand and dust storms.

(d) Provide the socioeconomic incentives needed to encourage local people to implement the necessary measures on their land;

(e) Ensure that actions to tackle the drivers of sand and dust storms are consistent with the actions recommended under the three Rio Conventions (the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity);

(f) Consider existing initiatives under the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, Particularly in Africa regional action plan to establish green walls on desert margins and other initiatives, such as regional air pollution agreements and policies that have the potential to address sand and dust storms;

(g) Encourage the developing countries affected to develop action plans on sand and dust storms at the national and regional levels and seek support from the United Nations and other regional and international organizations for that purpose;

(h) Develop integrated strategies to promote the sustainable use of natural resources;

(i) Enhance the access of States, in particular developing countries, to finance, the transfer of environmentally sound technologies, science and inclusive innovation and know-how-sharing, especially through bilateral and multilateral collaborative arrangements.

Global, regional and cross-sectoral cooperation and responses to:

(a) Take appropriate action to address the main factors at all levels causing sand and dust storms in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals, also taking into consideration the synergies among the three Rio Conventions.

(b) Invite the United Nations system to consider initiating an inter-agency process on sand and dust storms globally;

(c) Stress the need for further cooperation and capacity-building through sharing know-how, experiences, technical expertise, the boosting of technical cooperation, best practices and lessons learned.

Annex III to the letter dated 28 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Tehran Ministerial Declaration

We, the Ministers and high-level representatives participating in the International Conference on Combating Sand and Dust Storms:

Having met in Tehran to exchange views and share experiences and best practices in combating sand and dust storms and to contribute to global and regional efforts to put forward a concerted and collective response to this serious challenge,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 70/195 and 71/219, United Nations Environment Assembly resolution 2/21, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) Congress Decision Cg-XV/3.3.3.6 and Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 72/7, in which it was acknowledged that sand and dust storms pose a daunting challenge to the sustainable development of affected countries, including and in particular in Asia and Africa, and that coordinated prompt measures are needed to address it at the national, regional and global levels,

Acknowledging that sand and dust storms, which are on the rise in terms of severity and frequency in many parts of the world, are detrimental to human health, agricultural land, livelihoods, coastal and marine environment, infrastructure and the socioeconomic systems in all affected countries,

Fully aware that sand and dust storms occur because of the natural biogeochemical cycles of the Earth and human-induced factors, including climate change and unsustainable land management and water use,

Recognizing the negative impact of sand and dust storms on some countries and regions that are far away from their hotspots, owing to their transboundary nature,

Further recognizing that combating the challenge of sand and dust storms requires concerted and collaborative global, regional and subregional as well as national responses to address this phenomenon, and also underlining the role of the United Nations in promoting international cooperation and partnerships among countries and other relevant stakeholders to combat sand and dust storms,

Agree **to cooperate on combating sand and dust storms at the subregional, regional and international levels on the following:**

1. **Share** information, lessons learned and best practices, exchange views and expertise, develop mitigation and adaptation policies and measures, and exchange technical and monitored data and forecasting information to reduce the risk of sand and dust storms;

2. **Strengthen** national legal and institutional frameworks to share early warning information on sand and dust storms, and raise awareness and promote integrated and synergistic actions across sectors, and foster strengthened cooperation among relevant institutions at the global, regional and national levels;

3. **Enhance** public awareness on the impact and cost of sand and dust storms on human health, agricultural practice, food security, infrastructure, transport and in general socioeconomic sectors and the environment and partnerships among relevant stakeholders on the mitigation of the impact;

4. **Collectively endeavour** to enhance cooperation and coordination at the global, regional and subregional levels to address the causes and impact of sand and

dust storms, including through the promotion of sustainable water use and land management, to reduce future risks and impact of sand and dust storms;

5. **Develop and implement** a strategy on disaster risk reduction and resilience to promote sustainable land management and water use in croplands, rangelands, wetlands, deserts as well as rural and urban areas;

6. **Strengthen** research activities for effective monitoring, impact-based assessment and forecasting and early warning mechanisms for sand and dust storms, to address disaster prevention and mitigation and for the development of appropriate preparedness and effective responses to sand and dust storms;

7. **Encourage** enhanced regional and international cooperation to observe and forecast, mitigate and cope with the adverse effects of sand and dust storms, and seek technical and financial support from the relevant United Nations organizations to that end;

8. **Consider** to further develop policy dialogue on responding to the issues of sand and dust storms among interested countries in partnership with relevant international bodies and organizations, including the establishment of a future platform, in synergy with relevant United Nations system entities;

9. **Recognize** the role of the Asian and Pacific Centre for the Development of Disaster Information Management, regional seas programmes and the WMO Sand and Dust Storm Warning Advisory and Assessment System, to develop human and institutional capacity through strengthened regional cooperation in disaster information management;

10. **Invite** the Environment Management Group of the United Nations to consider initiating an inter-agency process involving relevant United Nations system entities, warranting to prepare a global response to sand and dust storms, including a situation analysis, a strategy and an action plan. This could result in developing a United Nations-wide approach to addressing sand and dust storms, which can be used as an inter-agency framework for mid- or long-term cooperation and division of labour;

11. **Request** the General Assembly to consider this declaration for appropriate actions;

12. **Express** our deepest gratitude to the Government and people of the Islamic Republic of Iran for the excellent arrangements and the warm hospitality that they extended to participants in this important International Conference.

United Nations A/71/1000–S/2017/656

General Assembly
Security Council

Distr.: General
1 August 2017

Original: English

General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 61
Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 31 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a statement issued by the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) on 30 July 2017 with regard to the successful second test-fire of intercontinental ballistic missile Hwasong-14 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 61, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) **Ja** Song Nam
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

17-13165 (E) 030817

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 31 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Statement by the spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 30 July 2017 with regard to the successful second test-fire of intercontinental ballistic missile Hwasong-14 conducted 28 July 2017

The resounding success in the second test-fire of ICBM Hwasong-14 conducted on July 28 is a great victory of the DPRK that demonstrated once again the independent prestige and dignity of Juche nuclear power, the world-level rocket power.

The test-fire confirmed the DPRK's capability of making surprise launch of ICBM in any place and location any time, and clearly proved that the entire U.S. mainland is in the firing range of the DPRK's missiles.

The maximum range simulation test-fire of ICBM conducted by the DPRK this time is meant to send a stern warning to the U.S. making senseless remarks, being lost to reason in the frantic sanctions and pressure campaign against the DPRK.

The policy-makers of the U.S. who must have closely observed the successful second ICBM test-fire would now properly understand that the U.S., an aggression-minded state, would not go scot-free if it ever dared provoke the DPRK.

The U.S. trumpeting about war and threat to impose extreme sanctions on the DPRK only emboldens the latter and provides further justification for its access to nukes.

To the Korean people who experienced disastrous disturbances of war on this land by the U.S. imperialist brutes, the powerful war deterrence for defending the state is an inevitable strategic option and it is a precious strategic asset that cannot be discarded or bartered for anything.

If the Yankees, who have imposed pain and misfortune upon the Korean people for over half a century through their bloody war of aggression and heinous hostile policy against the DPRK, dares brandish the nuclear stick on this land again despite the DPRK's repeated warnings, the DPRK will clearly teach them manners with the nuclear strategic force which it had so far shown the U.S. one after another.

The U.S. should clearly understand the strategic position of the DPRK which has become a world nuclear power and a rocket power and the resolve of its army and people for retaliation, and wake up from the foolish dream of doing any harm to the DPRK.

In case the U.S. fails to come to its own senses and continues to resort to military adventure and "tough sanctions", the DPRK will respond with its resolute act of justice as already declared.

United Nations A/71/1001–S/2017/664

General Assembly
Security Council

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General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda items 66 (a) and 93

Elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

Developments in the field of information and telecommunications in the context of international security

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 25 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

On behalf of the six Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan), I have the honour to transmit the attached statements of the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the Member States of the Organization, adopted in Minsk on 17 July 2017:

- On the joint measures to ensure information security (see annex I);
- On the inadmissibility of desecration of the memory of the Second World War soldiers-liberators (see annex II).

I would appreciate it if you could kindly circulate the present letter and its annexes as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 93 and 66 (a), and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Andrei **Dapkiunas**

17-13334 (E) 080817 100817

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Annex I to the letter dated 25 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on joint measures to ensure information security

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization are concerned by the increase in the use of information and communications technologies for destructive politico-military, terrorist and other criminal purposes that threaten international security and stability.

National and collective security is being threatened by massive computer attacks against various facilities, including critical infrastructure, by the use of modern information and communications technologies for the promotion of racial, ethnic and religious intolerance, extremist ideologies and terrorist organizations, including for the enlistment of recruits, and by destructive psychological pressure designed to distort the moral values of young people.

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization emphasize that the transboundary nature of contemporary challenges and threats requires increased collective efforts and the adoption of balanced measures in this area.

The growing role of the information sphere in the life of individuals, society and the State increases the urgency of ensuring proper information security for the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization and makes it especially important to strengthen cooperation within the Organization, particularly concerning the security of critical infrastructures and countering the use of information and communications technologies for terrorist purposes. The need for this was reaffirmed by the global computer attacks that recently affected more than 100 countries around the world.

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization call for conflict prevention in the information sphere and avoidance of the start of an information arms race.

In this context, particular significance is attached to facilitating the development and swift adoption, under the aegis of the United Nations, of universal rules, norms and principles for responsible behaviour in cyberspace. The importance is stressed of developing a universal international legal instrument, based on the principles and norms of international law, to counter the use of information and communications technologies for unlawful purposes.

However, in the context of ongoing instability and inconsistencies in the information space, we believe that efforts are needed to enhance the effectiveness of the work of international and regional organizations in the field of international information security.

The results of cooperation among States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization in the area of information security have, on the whole, demonstrated that it is advisable to strengthen practical cooperation in key areas in order to ensure security in the use of information and communications technologies, including in the coordinated collective response to computer incidents.

The States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization intend to continue working proactively to improve information security arrangements within the Organization, which includes interaction among special units of the security and internal affairs (police) agencies to prevent modern information technology crimes as part of the "Proksi" operation, the work of the coordination centre advisory board of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on computer incident response, and the activities of the information policy and information security working group reporting to the Organization's Committee of Secretaries of Security Councils.

Annex II to the letter dated 25 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Belarus to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

[Original: Russian]

Statement by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization on the inadmissibility of desecrating the memory of Second World War liberator soldiers

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization, pay tribute to the memory of the tens of millions of our compatriots who died on the fronts of the 1941-1945 Great Patriotic War. Remembering the feat accomplished by those who defeated the "brown plague" 72 years ago, we underscore that this victory was achieved only through the combined efforts of many peoples in order that they themselves could preserve the freedoms and opportunities to determine their own path of development.

We categorically reject and strongly condemn the concerted efforts under way to rewrite history and distort and revise the outcome of the Second World War, as well as attempts to glorify Nazism and militant nationalism. In that context, it is with concern that we must note the ongoing campaign to desecrate the memory of those who, at the cost of enormous loss of life, liberated European countries from Nazi aggression and occupation during the Second World War.

The dangers and bloody consequences of the hate-filled ideology of fascism are known to our compatriots from historical experience. We share the pain and indignation felt by the citizens of our countries at the reports of the steps being taken, including officially and at the parliamentary and other levels, to dismantle memorials that commemorate erstwhile brothers-in-arms and demonstrate their self-sacrifice and heroism in the fight against fascism. We must not forget that current generations exist thanks to the Great Victory and that they reap its benefits.

Such actions are a direction violation of United Nations General Assembly resolution 71/179, entitled "Combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contribute to fuelling contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance", which was sponsored by all States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization.

Equally unacceptable, blasphemous and cynical are initiatives to accord the status of national heroes to those who acted against the anti-Hitler coalition or collaborated with Nazis, committing the gravest crimes during the Second World War.

In this regard, we reaffirm that the States members of the Collective Security Treaty Organization categorically reject and strongly condemn the deliberate desecration of our common history.

Noting the contribution of the peoples of the world to the fight against Nazism, we call on all countries to hold sacred the memory of those who perished and to keep their war graves well maintained.

United Nations A/71/1002–S/2017/660

General Assembly
Security Council

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2 August 2017

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General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda item 41
Question of Cyprus

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 31 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 31 July 2017, addressed to you by Mehmet Dânâ, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 41, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Güven **Begeç**
Deputy Permanent Representative
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

17-13274 (E) 070817

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Annex to the letter dated 31 July 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I am writing in response to the letter dated 14 July 2017 addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative in New York and circulated as a document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council (A/71/989-S/2017/618), which yet again contains false assertions similar to those made in his previous letters. In order to set the record straight, I would like to bring the following to your kind attention.

At the outset, regarding the claims of so-called "infringements of international air traffic regulations" and "violations of the national airspace of the Republic of Cyprus by Turkey", I wish, once again, to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the relevant authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or right of say whatsoever. The civil aviation authority of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus is the sole competent authority to provide air traffic and aeronautical information services within its own national airspace. As for the false assertion regarding "illegally issued" notices to airmen, it must be underlined that activities within the Ercan advisory airspace that require notices to airmen are carried out by the relevant authorities of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus in accordance with article 3 of the Convention on International Civil Aviation (Chicago Convention).

Similarly, the claim in the letter regarding the Turkish Cypriot ports is also baseless, given the fact that the Greek Cypriot administration has no jurisdiction or right of say over Northern Cyprus. Furthermore, this claim ignores the present realities on the ground, namely, the existence of two independent self-governing States on the island of Cyprus, each exercising sovereignty and jurisdiction within its respective territory.

As to the repeated false allegations regarding Ercan Airport in the North, it should once again be underlined that the technologically up-to-date Ercan area control centre and airport in North Cyprus have been providing regular, reliable and safe air traffic services since the Greek Cypriot refusal in 1977 to provide air traffic services in the northern part of the island, in line with its isolation policy that has been imposed on the Turkish Cypriot people. Ever since, all flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus have taken place with the full knowledge and permission of the Civil Aviation Department of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or control. Furthermore, I would like to stress that the allegation regarding the interference of radio frequencies is also totally baseless.

Moreover, the isolation imposed on the Turkish Cypriots, which the Greek Cypriot side attempts to perpetuate by encouraging the international community to deem all air- and seaports in Northern Cyprus "illegal", is in complete contravention of international law, as well as the call made by the then Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, in his report to the Security Council dated 28 May 2004 (S/2004/437), in which he clearly stated, "I would hope they [members of the Security Council] can give a strong lead to all States to cooperate both bilaterally and in international bodies to eliminate unnecessary restrictions and barriers that have the effect of isolating the Turkish Cypriots and impeding their development, deeming such a move as consistent with Security Council resolutions 541 (1983) and 550 (1984)".

The legislation of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus on aeronautical safety meets all standards and recommendations of the International Civil Aviation Organization, providing safe and swift navigation of aircraft landing at or taking off from Ercan Airport and using airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. All airports in Northern Cyprus are in full conformity with international standards, and necessary investments have been made to keep up with the developing technology. The number of air traffic controllers has been increased in accordance with the increasing number of flights over the years, and the Ercan area control centre is in regular and close cooperation with the Ankara area control centre in order to ensure the safe conduct of all flights in the region. In 2016 alone, the number of passengers who used Ercan Airport stood at 3,628,887, while this number is expected to be around 3,900,000 in 2017. Moreover, in 2016, 27,109 planes used Ercan Airport for arrival and departure and 210,789 planes used the Ercan advisory airspace, and these numbers are expected to be around 28,080 and 225,000, respectively, in 2017. In that regard, it must also be stressed that the Turkish Cypriot side is committed to upholding the highest standards in the field of air navigation safety in full conformity with the Chicago Convention of 1944, and that it is ready to cooperate with the Greek Cypriot authorities on this very important issue.

Availing myself of the present opportunity, I would like to call upon the Greek Cypriot side to discontinue such counterproductive and outdated rhetoric. Moreover, the Greek Cypriot administration should once again be reminded that its counterpart is, and always has been, the Turkish Cypriot side, not Turkey.

I should be grateful if the present letter could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 41, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Mehmet **Dânâ**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus

United Nations A/71/1003–S/2017/668

General Assembly
Security Council

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4 August 2017

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General Assembly
Seventy-first session
Agenda items 32 and 37

Protracted conflicts in the GUAM area and their implications for international peace, security and development

The situation in the occupied territories of Azerbaijan

Security Council
Seventy-second year

Letter dated 2 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to convey herewith the records of violations of the ceasefire by the Republic of Armenia in April and May 2017 (see annexes I and II).*

During the reporting period, Armenia violated the ceasefire regime 3,208 and 3,622 times, respectively, and continued the usage of large-calibre guns and heavy weaponry from its positions in the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan and from its own territory.

The continuous occupation of a large part of the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan by the armed forces of Armenia remains the main obstacle in the settlement of the conflict and the only source of the escalation of the situation on the front line and the occurrence of hostilities and casualties.

The sooner the Republic of Armenia withdraws its troops from the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the sooner peace and stability can be restored in the region.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda items 32 and 37, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Yashar **Aliyev**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* The annexes are being circulated in the language of submission only.

17-13406 (E) 090817

Please recycle

Annex I to the letter dated 2 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia for April 2017*

Dates	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damages*
1-30 April	**Agham district, Azerbaijan**			
	Ahmadaghali village	AK/AKM	9	
	Ayag Garvand village	AK	23	
	Ashagi Garvand village	AK	14	
	Bash Garvand village	AK/SVD/AKM	3	
	Chamanly village	AK/AKM	52	
	Chiragly village	AKM/AK	39	
	Evoghlu village	AKM	8	
	Gyamaddynly village	AK/AKM	13	
	Husanly village	AK	9	
	Mahrizli village	AK/AKM	5	
	Mammadbaghirly village	AK	6	
	Merzili village	AKM/AK/60-mm M	65	
	Orta Garvand	AK/AKM	59	
	Saryjaly village	AK/AKM	53	
	Shahvalylar village	AKM	14	
	Shuraabad village	AK/AKM	5	
	Tazakand village	AK	7	
	Unnamed heights	AK/PKM/AKM	45	
	Zangishaly village	AK	9	
	Aghjabadi district, Azerbaijan			
	Gyamaddynly village	AK/AKM/PKM	99	
	Mahryzly village	AK	3	
	Minakhorlu village	AKM/AK	18	
	Unnamed heights	AKM	3	
	Agstafa district, Azerbaijan			
	Kohna Gyshlag village	AK	3	
	Dashkasan district, Azerbaijan			
	Alakhanchally village	PKM/AK	11	
	Zivilyan village	AKM/AK	23	
	Unnamed heights	AKM	5	
	Fizuli district, Azerbaijan			
	Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly village	AK/AKM	36	
	Ashaghy Seyidahmadly village	AK	51	
	Alikhanly village	AK	20	

* Settlements of the Republic of Azerbaijan included in this information are under occupation by the Republic of Armenia or situated close to the fire point areas.

Dates	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damages*
	Ashaghy Veysalli village	AK/82-mm M	71	
	Garakhanbeyli village	AK/AKM/PKM/82-mm M	68	
	Garakhanbeyli and Alkhanly villages	AK/AKM	49	
	Garvand village	AK/AKM	42	
	Gobu Dilagarda	AK	23	
	Horadiz village	AK/AKM/PKM	75	
	Kurdlar and Ashagy Abdurrahmanly villages	AK/AKM/PKM/60-mm and 82-mm M	81	
	Korgan and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages	AKM/AK/PKM	43	
	Korgan and Shukurbayli villages	AK	68	
	Shukurbayli village	AK	55	
	Unnamed heights	AK	42	
	Yukhary Abdurrahmanly and Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly villages	AK/AKM	6	
	Gazakh district, Azerbaijan			
	Bala Jafarli village	AKM/AK	33	
	Dashsalahli village	AK	9	
	Jafarli village	PKM/AK	24	
	Farahli village	AK/AKM	6	
	Gaymagly village	AKM/AK/PKM	42	
	Gushchu Ayrum village	AKM/PKM/SVD/DShK	57	
	Gyzylhajili village	SVD/AK	19	
	Kamarli village	AK/PKM/AKM/DShK	63	
	Musakoy village	AK/AKM/PKM	17	
	Unnamed heights	AK	2	
	Gedebey district, Azerbaijan			
	Chalburun village	AKM/PKM	6	
	Galakand village	AK/PKM/AKM	12	
	Garavallar village	AKM	1	
	Goyali village	AKM/AK	9	
	Mutudara village	AK	1	
	Novoivanovka village	AKM	5	
	Novosaratovka village	AK	6	
	Unnamed heights	AKM	5	
	Zamanly village	AKM	6	
	Goranboy district, Azerbaijan			
	Borsunlu village	AKM/AK	25	
	Gapanly village	AK/AKM	13	
	Garachinarly village	AK	24	
	Gulustan village	AK/AKM/PKM/60-mm M	85	
	Gyrmyzysaggallar village	AK/AKM	55	
	Kharkhaput village	AK	10	
	Tapgaragoyunlu village	AK/AKM	67	
	Unnamed heights	AK/PKM/AKM	47	

Dates	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Number of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damages*
	Yenikand village	AK/PKM	22	
	Yukhari Agjakend village	AKM	2	
	Zeyva village	AK/AKM	25	
	Goygol district, Azerbaijan			
	Azgilli village	AK	6	
	Gazandurmaz village	AKM	2	
	Kurdalylar village	AKM/AK	13	
	Pirverdilar village	AK/PKM	8	
	Unnamed heights	AKM	18	
	Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan			
	Mehdili village	AK	10	
	Mehdili and Jojug Marjanli villages	AK	16	
	Nuzgar village and Lala Ilahi heights	AK/AKM	30	
	Unnamed heights	AK/AKM	18	
	Khojavand district, Azerbaijan			
	Kuropatkino village	PKM/AKM/AK	20	
	Unnamed heights	AKM/AK/PKM	165	
	Tartar district, Azerbaijan			
	Borsunlu village	AK/AKM/82-mm M	45	
	Chayly village	AKM/AK/PKM	113	
	Damirchilar village	AKM	20	
	Gapanly village	AK/AKM/PKM	85	
	Gazyan village	AKM/AK	35	
	Hasangaya village	AK/AKM	103	
	Jerabert village	AKM/PKM/OSV-96	48	
	Karmiravan village	12.7-mm B-32/AKM/PKM/OSV-96/82-mm M	56	
	Levonarkh and Hasangaya villages	AKM/AK	15	
	Seyidimli village	AKM/AK	13	
	Seysulan and Gapanli villages	AKM/AK/PKM	43	
	Tazakand village	60-mm M/AK/PKM	35	
	Talysh village	AKM	9	
	Unnamed heights	AK/PKM/AKM	39	
	Yarymja village	AKM/AK	20	
	Tovuz district, Azerbaijan			
	Aghdam village	AKM	9	
	Aghbulag village	AK/AKM/PKM/OSV-96/DShK	60	
	Alibayli village	AK/PKM	34	
	Asryk Jirdakhan village	PKM/AK/OSV-96	29	
	Hajaly village	PKM	5	
	Kokhanabi village	AK	23	
	Kohna Gyshlag village	PKM	2	
	Munjuglu village	AK/AKM	24	
	Unnamed heights	AK/AKM	6	

Abbreviations: AK, Kalashnikov assault rifle; AKM, modernized Kalashnikov assault rifle; DShK, heavy machine gun; OSV-96, semi-automatic sniper rifle; PKM, modernized Kalashnikov machine gun; SVD, sniper rifle; 60-mm/82-mm M, mortar.

Annex II to the letter dated 02 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Azerbaijan to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Armenia for May 2017*

Dates	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Amount of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damages*
1-31 May	**Agham district, Azerbaijan**			
	Ahmadali village	AK/AKM	45	
	Ayag Garvand village	AK	43	
	Ashagi Garvand village	AK	39	
	Opposite positions of Bash Garvand village	AK/SVD/AKM	25	
	Chamanly village	AK/AKM	44	
	2.5 km west of Chamanly village	AKM	21	
	Chiragly village	AKM/AK	27	
	Evoghlu village	AKM	17	
	Gyamaddynly village	AK/AKM	48	
	Husanly village	82-mm M	42	
	Mahrizli village	AK/AKM	17	
	4.00 km west of Mahrizli village	AKM	9	
	Mammadbaghirly village	AK	17	
	Myrashili village	AK/AKM	20	
	Opposite positions of Merzili village	AKM/AK/60-mm M	41	
	Orta Garvand	AK/AKM	31	
	Saryjaly village	AK/AKM	40	
	Shahvalylar village	AKM	17	
	Shuraabad village	AK/AKM	10	
	Tazakand village	AK	21	
	Yusifjanly village	60-mm M	18	
	Opposite positions of unnamed heights	AK/PKM/AKM	55	
	Zangishaly village	AK/82mm M	21	
	Aghjabadi district, Azerbaijan			
	Gyamaddynly village	AK/AKM/PKM	67	
	Kangarly village	AKM	18	
	Minakhorlu village	AKM/AK	53	
	Agstafa district, Azerbaijan			
	Kohna Gyshlag village	AK	23	
	Dashkasan district, Azerbaijan			
	Alakhanchally village	AKM/AK	25	
	Tazakand village	AKM	17	
	Zivilyan village	AKM/AK	26	
	Opposite positions of unnamed heights	AKM	38	

* Settlements of the Republic of Azerbaijan included in this information are under occupation by the Republic of Armenia or situated close to the fire point areas.

Dates	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Amount of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damages*
	Fizuli district, Azerbaijan			
	Ashaghy Abdurrahmanly village	AK/AKM	75	
	Alkhanly village	AK/82-mm M/120-mm M	64	
	Opposite positions of Ashaghy Veysalli village	AK/82-mm M	101	
	Opposite positions of Garakhanbeyli village	AK/AKM/PKM/82-mm M	59	
	Opposite positions of Garvand village	AK/AKM	81	
	Gobu Dilagarda	AK	33	
	Opposite positions of Horadiz village	AK/AKM/PKM/60-mm M	45	
	Shukurbayli village	AK/60-mm M	44	
	Opposite positions of unnamed heights	AK	46	
	Gazakh district, Azerbaijan			
	Bala Jafarli village	AKM/AK	35	
	Dashsalahli village	AK	29	
	Jafarli village	PKM/AK	17	
	Farahli village	AK/AKM	25	
	Gaymagly village	AKM/AK/PKM	45	
	Gushchu Ayrum village	AKM/PKM/SVD/DShK	28	
	Gyzylhajili village	SVD/AK	26	
	Kamarli village	AK/PKM/AKM/DShK	22	
	Kohna Gyshlag village	AK/AKM	27	
	Mazam village	AKM	25	
	Musakoy village	AK/AKM/PKM	23	
	Unnamed heights	AK/AKM/DShK	30	
	Gedebey district, Azerbaijan			
	Chalburun village	AKM/PKM	9	
	Galakand village	AK/PKM/AKM	5	
	Garavallar village	AKM	8	
	Gasimaghali village	AKM	25	
	Mutudara village	AKM	20	
	Novoivanovka village	AKM	28	
	Novosaratovka village	AK/AKM	27	
	Shynykh village	AK/AKM	13	
	Unnamed heights	AKM	22	
	Zamanly village	AKM	34	
	Goranboy district, Azerbaijan			
	Borsunlu village	AKM/AK/60-mm M	48	
	Gapanly village	AK/AKM	31	
	Gulustan village	AK/AKM/PKM/60-mm M	69	
	Gyrmyzysaggallar village	AK/AKM	32	
	Kharkhaput village	AK	22	
	Tapgaragoyunlu village	AK/AKM/82-mm M	76	
	Opposite positions of unnamed heights	AK/PKM/AKM	55	
	Yenikand village	AK/PKM	40	

Dates	*Direction (locality)*	*Weapons used*	*Amount of ceasefire violations*	*Casualties and damages*
	Yukhari Agjakend village	AKM	55	
	Zeyva village	AK/AKM	38	
	Goygol district, Azerbaijan			
	Kurdalylar village	AKM/AK	28	
	Pirverdilar village	AK/PKM	17	
	Opposite positions of unnamed heights	AKM	35	
	Jabrayil district, Azerbaijan			
	Gazakhlar village	AK	18	
	Jojug Marjanli village	AK	27	
	Lala Ilahi heights	AK/AKM/60-mm M	30	
	Unnamed heights	AK/AKM	24	
	Khojavand district, Azerbaijan			
	Opposite positions of Kuropatkino village	PKM/AKM/AK/60-mm M/82-mm M	75	
	Opposite positions of unnamed heights	AKM/AK/PKM	83	
	Tartar district, Azerbaijan			
	Askipara village	AK	19	
	Borsuulu village	AK/AKM/82-mm M/RPG	47	
	Chayly village	AKM/AK/PKM/82-mm M/60-mm M	67	
	Damirchilar village	AKM	22	
	Gapanly village	AK/AKM/PKM/120-mm M/82-mm M	71	
	Gazyan village	AKM/AK/82-mm and 60-mm M	27	
	Hasangaya village	AK/AKM	30	
	Opposite positions of Jerabert village	AKM/PKM/OSV-96	24	
	Karmiravan village	AKM	21	
	2 km northeast of Karmiravan village	AKM	9	
	Seyidimli village	AKM/AK	20	
	Gapanli village	AKM/82-mm M	20	
	Tazakand village	60-mm M/AK/PKM	22	
	Opposite positions of Talysh village	AKM	36	
	Opposite positions of unnamed heights	AK/PKM/AKM	34	
	Yarymja village	AKM/AK		
	Tovuz district, Azerbaijan			
	Aghdam village	AKM/AK	33	
	Aghbulag village	AK/AKM/PKM/DShK	36	
	Alibayli village	AKM	32	
	Asryk Jirdakhan village	PKM/AK/OSV-96	20	
	Bayramly village	AKM	19	
	Garalar village	AKM	19	
	Hajihasanly village	AK/AKM	57	
	Kokhanabi village	AK/AKM	48	
	Kohna Gyshlag village	PKM/AKM/AK	23	
	Munjuglu village	AK/AKM	28	
	Unnamed heights	AK/AKM	35	

Abbreviations: AK, Kalashnikov assault rifle; AKM, modernized Kalashnikov assault rifle; DShK, heavy machine gun; OSV-96, semi-automatic sniper rifle; PKM, modernized Kalashnikov machine gun; RPG, handheld anti-tank grenade launcher; SVD, sniper rifle; 60-mm/82-mm/120-mm M, mortar.

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Letter dated 2 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instruction from my Government I transmit herewith for your attention the record of the ceasefire violations by the Azerbaijani armed forces along the state border of the Republic of Armenia during the month of July 2017 (see annex I).*

I also transmit herewith for your attention the record of ceasefire violations registered by the Ministry of Defence of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic during the month of July 2017 (see annex II).*

I kindly request that the present letter and its annexes be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Zohrab **Mnatsakanyan**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* Circulated in the language of submission only.

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Annex I to the letter dated 2 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan along the State border with the Republic of Armenia

1-31 July 2017

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons number of shots*
1 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	6	Small arms and light weapons: 251 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 1 (Paravakar 1)
	Chinari	2	
	Paravakar	1	
	Vazashen	1	
	Berdavan	1	
	Vahan	1	
2 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik, Ararat, Vayots Dzor Regions	10	Small arms and light weapons: 69 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 5 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 1 (Arpunk 1)
	Aygedzor	2	
	Chinari	2	
	Aygepar	2	
	Berdavan	1	
	Arpunk	1	
	Yeraskh	1	
	Khndzorut	1	
3 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	3	Small arms and light weapons: 31 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 1
	Chinari	1	
	Aygedzor	1	
	Jil	1	
4 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	11	Small arms and light weapons: 611 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 9 Large-calibre machine guns: 25
	Chinari	3	
	Paravakar	2	
	Barekamavan	2	
	Jil	1	
	Geghamasar	2	
	Kutakan	1	

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons number of shots*
5 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	15	Small arms and light weapons: 275 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 25 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 5 (Tsapatagh 3; Daranak 2) Large-calibre machine guns: 60
	Aygedzor	3	
	Paravakar	1	
	Aygepar	4	
	Geghamasar	1	
	Tsapatagh	2	
	Daranak	2	
	Kutakan	1	
	Vahan	1	
6 July	Tavush Region	13	Small arms and light weapons: 196 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 8 Large-calibre machine guns: 5
	Chinari	8	
	Paravakar	1	
	Barekamavan	3	
	Voskevan	1	
7 July	Tavush Region	7	Small arms and light weapons: 54 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 10 (Chinari 10) Large-calibre machine guns: 10
	Chinari	3	
	Aygedzor	1	
	Aygepar	3	
8 July	Tavush, Ararat, Vayots Dzor Regions	9	Small arms and light weapons: 66 Large-calibre machine guns: 250
	Chinari	2	
	Paravakar	1	
	Barekamavan	1	
	Berdavan	2	
	Yeraskh	2	
	Khndzoresk	1	
9 July	Tavush, Vayots Dzor, Gegharkunik Regions	14	Small arms and light weapons: 958 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 5 Large-calibre machine guns: 40
	Chinari	2	
	Aygepar	4	
	Barekamavan	3	
	Khndzoresk	2	
	Jil	1	
	Geghamasar	2	

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons number of shots*
10 July	Tavush, Syunik, Vayots Dzor, Ararat Regions	14	Small arms and light weapons: 716 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 31 Large-calibre machine guns: 100
	Chinari	6	
	Aygepar	2	
	Movses	1	
	Koti	2	
	Chapni	1	
	Khndzorut	1	
	Yeraskh	1	
11 July	Tavush Region	3	Small arms and light weapons: 42
	Aygedzor	2	
	Movses	1	
12 July	Tavush, Vayoc Dzor Regions	2	Small arms and light weapons: 2 Large-calibre machine guns: 2
	Baghanis	1	
	Khndzorut	1	
13 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik, Ararat Regions	16	Small arms and light weapons: 480 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 10 (Jil 6; Chinari 4)
	Chinari	2	
	Aygedzor	1	
	Aygepar	5	
	Barekamavan	1	
	Vahan	1	
	Jil	3	
	Artanish	1	
	Kakhakn	1	
	Yeraskh	1	
14 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	5	Small arms and light weapons: 91
	Aygedzor	1	
	Aygepar	3	
	Artanish	1	

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons number of shots*
15 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	11	Small arms and light weapons: 391 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 5 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 1 (Chinari 1)
	Chinari	2	
	Paravakar	2	
	Movses	3	
	Voskevan	1	
	Jil	3	
16 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	12	Small arms and light weapons: 320 Small calibre sniper weapons: 13 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 14 (Chinari 7, Aygedzor 1; Movses 6) Large-calibre machine guns: 60
	Chinari	4	
	Aygedzor	2	
	Paravakar	1	
	Movses	1	
	Aygepar	1	
	Pambak	2	
	Daranak	1	
17 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	4	Small arms and light weapons: 81 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 2 (Aygedzor 2) Large-calibre machine guns: 10
	Chinari	1	
	Aygedzor	1	
	Paravakar	1	
	Aygepar	1	
	Geghamasar		
18 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	11	Small arms and light weapons: 1460 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 16 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 18 (Vahan 18) Large-calibre machine guns: 300
	Chinari	1	
	Movses	2	
	Aygepar	1	
	Tsapatagh	1	
	Artanish	3	
	Vahan	2	
	Chambarak	1	

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons number of shots*
19 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	13	Small arms and light weapons: 162 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 11 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 27 (Jil 2; Pambak 6; Aygedzor 9; Chinari 9; Vazashen 1)
	Chinari	3	
	Aygedzor	1	
	Movses	3	
	Vazashen	2	
	Kolagir	1	
	Jil	1	
	Pambak	2	
20 July	Tavush Region	3	Small arms and light weapons: 13 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 10 (Movses 10) Large-calibre machine guns: 40
	Chinari	1	
	Movses	2	
21 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	35	Small arms and light weapons: 1054 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 86 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 48 (Tsapatagh 2; Chinari 36; Movses 10) Large-calibre machine guns: 36
	Aygedzor	5	
	Chinari	11	
	Paravakar	4	
	Aygepar	6	
	Vazashen	2	
	Barekamavan	1	
	Movses	2	
	Tsapatagh	1	
	Vahan	1	
	Daranak	1	
	Chambarak	1	
22 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	10	Small arms and light weapons: 255 Large-calibre machine guns: 360
	Aygedzor	1	
	Chinari	1	
	Barekamavan	5	
	Chapni	1	
	Jil	1	
	Geghamasar	1	

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons number of shots*
23 July	Tavush Region	2	Small arms and light weapons: 29 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 3
	Aygepar	1	
	Koti	1	
24 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	13	Small arms and light weapons: 77 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 6 Large-calibre machine guns: 603
	Chinari	4	
	Paravakar	1	
	Movses	1	
	Aygepar	1	
	Vazasen	1	
	Voskepar	1	
	Jil	1	
	Chapni	1	
	Khndzorut	2	
25 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	4	Small arms and light weapons: 12 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 15 Large-calibre machine guns: 15
	N.Karmiraghbyur	1	
	Paravasar	1	
	Barekamavan	1	
	Geghamasar	1	
26 July	Tavush, Vayots Dzor, Syunik Regions	9	Small arms and light weapons: 117 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 3 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 1 (Aygedzor 1)
	Aygedzor	2	
	Chinari	1	
	Paravakar	2	
	Barekamavan	1	
	r.Avazan	1	
	Khndzorut	1	
	Gorhayq	1	
27 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	4	Small arms and light weapons: 200 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 4 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 56 (Yanshak 3, Sotk 50; Tsapatagh 3) Large-calibre machine guns: 100
	N.Karmiraghbyur	1	
	Sotk	1	
	Jil	1	
	Tsapatagh	1	

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons number of shots*
28 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	13	Small arms and light weapons: 163 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 10 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 15 (r.Avazan 15)
	Chinari	1	
	Aygedzor	2	
	Aygepar	3	
	Paravakar	3	
	Movses	1	
	Vazashen	1	
	Daranak	1	
	r.Avazan	1	
29 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	12	Small arms and light weapons: 358 Large-calibre machine guns: 20 Grenade launchers: 6
	Aygedzor	3	
	Chinari	1	
	Paravakar	1	
	Baghanis	1	
	Berdavan	4	
	Jil	1	
	Geghamasar	1	
30 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik Regions	6	Small arms and light weapons: 116 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 17 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 5 (Aygedzor 5)
	Chinari	2	
	Aygedzor	2	
	Berdavan	1	
	Vahan	1	
31 July	Tavush, Gegharkunik, Syunik Regions	18	Small arms and light weapons: 718 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 7 Large-calibre machine guns: 13
	Aygedzor	1	
	Chinari	2	
	N.Karmiraghbyur	1	
	Paravakar	3	
	Baghanis	2	
	Jil	1	
	Vahan	6	
	Shaghat	1	
	Karchevan	1	

Annex II to the letter dated 2 August 2017 from the Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Violations of the ceasefire by the armed forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan on the line of contact with the Nagorno Karabakh Republic

1-31 July 2017

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons number of shots*
1 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	35	Small arms and light weapons: 431 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 14 Grenade launchers: 8 Small-calibre mortars: 7 (Yusifjanli 5; Taghibeyli 1; Sarijanli 1)
2 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	39	Small arms and light weapons: 200 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 15 Grenade launchers: 23 Small-calibre mortars: 14 (Ashaghi Veysali 4; Sarijanli 5; Taghibeyli 3; Geytape 2)
3 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	24	Small arms and light weapons: 480 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 13 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 20 (Mehdili 2; m. Gyamish 8; Choporlu 10) Large-calibre machine guns: 20 Grenade launchers: 2 Small-calibre mortars: 13 (Ashaghi Seydakhmedli 13)
4 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	22	Small arms and light weapons: 322 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 10 Large-calibre machine guns: 26 Small-calibre mortars: 2 (Ashaghi Seydakhmrdli 2)
5 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	27	Small arms and light weapons: 706 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 5 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 41 (Nuzger 5; Talish 1; Choporlu 35) Large-calibre machine guns: 100 Grenade launchers: 3 Small-calibre mortars: 12 (Asaghi Abdurakhmanli 5; Ashaghi Seydakhmedli 3; Marzili 4) MLRS: 5 (Ashaghi Seydakhmedli 5)

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons number of shots*
6 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	24	Small arms and light weapons: 395 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 39 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 5 (Nuzger 2; Talish 1; Dastagir 2) Large-calibre machine guns: 5
7 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	12	Small arms and light weapons: 472 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 6
8 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	58	Small arms and light weapons: 474 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 4 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 3 (Gyulistan 3) Grenade launchers: 10 Small-calibre mortars: 42 (Darchinar 8; Ashaghi Veysali 4; Geytape 9; Yarmja 4; Talish 16; Gyulistan 1) Artillery: 28 (Karakhanbeyli 21; Ashaghi Seydakhmedli 1; Bash Karvend 6) UAV: 2 (Verin Chayʹu 1; Shikhlyar 1)
9 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	22	Small arms and light weapons: 276 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 10 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 2 (Mehdili 2)
10 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	53	Small arms and light weapons: 516 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 20 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 7 (Mehdili 4; Ashaghi Abdurakhmanli 2; m. Mrov 1) Large-calibre machine guns: 15 Grenade launchers: 2 (Ashaghi 2) Small-calibre mortars: 11 (Mehdili 3; Ashaghi Sedakhmadli 8)
11 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	30	Small arms and light weapons: 539 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 3 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 16 (m.Karachuk 10; Gyulistan 6) Large-calibre machine guns: 40 Grenade launchers: 1
12 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	28	Small arms and light weapons: 562 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 23
13 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	16	Small arms and light weapons: 228 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 12 Large-calibre machine guns: 10 Grenade launchers: 2

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons number of shots*
14 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	27	Small arms and light weapons: 242 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 5 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 18 (Ashaghi Abdurakhmanli 1; Ashaghi Veysali 3; Gyulistan 14) Small-calibre mortars: 2 (Gyulistan 2)
15 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	34	Small arms and light weapons: 562 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 13 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 13 (Mehdili 1; Ashaghi Seydakhmedli 4; Ashaghi Veysali 8)
16 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	34	Small arms and light weapons: 474 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 21 Large-calibre machine guns: 1 Small-calibre mortars: 1 (Sarijanli 1)
17 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	22	Small arms and light weapons: 287 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 6 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 3 (Mehdili 3)
18 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	28	Small arms and light weapons: 309 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 7 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 8 (Nuzger 3; Korgan 5)
19 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	18	Small arms and light weapons: 175 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 13 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 6 (Gyulistan3; m. Mrov 3) Large-calibre machine guns: 16
20 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	23	Small arms and light weapons: 157 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 4 Large-calibre machine guns: 50 Small-calibre mortars: 2 (Talish 2)
21 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	18	Small arms and light weapons:492 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 12 Small-calibre mortars: 2 (Taghibeyli 2)
22 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	19	Small arms and light weapons: 108 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 29 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 1 (Talish 1)
23 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	37	Small arms and light weapons: 849 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 16 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 6 (Gyulistan 6) Large-calibre machine guns: 20
24 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	22	Small arms and light weapons: 209 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 5 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 3 (Mehdili 1; Taghibeyli 2)

Date	*Direction*	*Incidents*	*Type of weapons number of shots*
25 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	20	Small arms and light weapons: 237 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 28
26 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	13	Small arms and light weapons: 107 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 16 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 2 (Verin Chaylu 2) Large-calibre machine guns: 20
27 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	21	Small arms and light weapons: 652 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 13 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 12 (Ashaghi Seydakhmedli 1; Kurapatkino 1; Gyulistan 7; Yanshak 3) Large-calibre machine guns: 7
28 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	17	Small arms and light weapons: 143 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 15 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 4 (Yanshak 4) Large-calibre machine guns: 3
29 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	31	Small arms and light weapons: 264 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 4 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 64 (Mehdili 53; Yanshak 11)
30 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	14	Small arms and light weapons: 170 Small-calibre sniper weapons: 6
31 July	On the line of contact between the armed forces of Nagorno Karabakh Republic and Azerbaijan	15	Small arms and light weapons: 144 Large-calibre sniper weapons: 13 (Verin Chaylu 13)

During the reporting period, one soldier of the Nagorno Karabakh Republic Defence Army was killed and eight soldiers were wounded from fire by the Azerbaijani side.

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Letter dated 1 August 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to enclose herewith a commentary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the preparations of the Russian Federation to conduct illegal elections in the temporarily occupied city of Sevastopol (see annex).

I would appreciate if you could have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 31, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Yuriy **Vitrenko**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

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Annex to the letter dated 1 August 2017 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Commentary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine on the preparations of the Russian Federation to conduct illegal elections in the temporarily occupied city of Sevastopol

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine expressed its strong protest to the Russian Federation against its intention to organize pseudo-election processes and other illegal actions in temporarily occupied city of Sevastopol, in particular, an unlawful adoption of the list and limits of the polling stations. Another attempt by the occupying state to extend its national legislation over the territory of sovereign Ukraine is a flagrant violation of the international law and the legislation of Ukraine. Ukraine does not recognize any other "election processes" that are conducted by Kremlin in the temporarily occupied territory, and considers them null and void.

In accordance with Article 9 of the Law of Ukraine "On securing the rights and freedoms of citizens and the legal regime on the temporarily occupied territory of Ukraine", any bodies, their officials and staff in the temporarily occupied territory and their activities shall be deemed unlawful if such bodies or officials are established, elected or appointed in a manner not stipulated by the legislation of Ukraine.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Ukraine calls upon all states, international organizations and specialized agencies not to recognize any pseudo-election processes that are taking place in the temporarily occupied territories of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, to refrain from any action that might be interpreted as a ground for the legitimization of illegal elections, and to increase their pressure on the Russian Federation in order to make it end its aggression against Ukraine and begin process of de-occupation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.